



Date: May 20, 2005
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report For Week Ending May 20, 2005

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending May 20, 2005 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Police

More than 800 people attended the 37th Annual Police Department Awards Celebration at the Long Beach Convention Center on May 17. The celebration recognized both Department employees and citizens who have demonstrated an exceptional contribution to law enforcement. Detective Richard Carr received the award for Sworn Employee of the Year, Police Services Assistant Maggie Everett was awarded the Civilian Employee of the Year and Officer Dennis Parker received the Purple Heart. In total, twenty-eight sworn employees of varying ranks and nine civilian employees received individual awards, three specialized programs were recognized, three Police Department Details were awarded unit citations for their contributions throughout the year, and sixteen citations recognizing various units within the Police Department were awarded for their investigative contribution to specific cases. In addition, nineteen citizens were honored for their community service.

Financial Management, Commercial Services Bureau

Although the Commercial Services Bureau has had 13 vacancies, employees continue to work diligently to service customers. Through six months (50 percent of the fiscal year) Commercial Services has collected about 59 percent of its budgeted revenues. In order to improve staff morale, employee focus groups have been created to resolve problems and improve working conditions. Staff has been very receptive to participating in such groups.

Financial Management, Budget Management Division

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

On May 16, the Neighborhood Resource Center hosted a *Budgeting 101 Workshop* featuring Financial Management Director Michael Killebrew and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski. Interested residents and City employees learned about the City of Long Beach budget, the budget process and the Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan. LBTV Channel 8 filmed the event.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Fire

In recognition of National Emergency Medical Services Week, St. Mary Medical Center and Long Beach Emergency Mobile Care System held a reception acknowledging Long Beach Fire Department Emergency Medical Services personnel who have performed exemplary service. Chief Ellis accepted three proclamations from the Mayor and Members of the City Council.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau

On May 17, the Long Beach Youth Fund held its annual proposal presentation workshop, hearing oral presentations from 12 youth-led groups, each responding to the Youth Fund's 2005 Request for Proposals. The 15-member board of the Youth Fund, overseen by the Commission on Youth and Children, is comprised of the youth members of the Commission and six community youth members, who together will decide how to distribute \$14,000 in grant funding to youth-driven projects this year.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau

More than 60 members of the Youth Services NETWORK met at the Miller Family Health Education Center on May 17 to discuss after-school programs and services. The program included an update from the After-School Advocacy Partnership (ASAP), a summary of the Long Beach WRAP (21st Century Community Learning Center) after-school programs, and a formal presentation by Dr. Marianne Kugler, a nationally recognized after-school specialist who was instrumental in crafting the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant program at the federal level.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Community Development, Economic Development Bureau

Staff will host the Mayor's New Business Reception on June 2. The reception is designed to welcome start-up businesses, new owners and existing businesses that have moved to Long Beach. The reception also serves as a venue for City Departments to provide information on programs and services available to the business community.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

A golf clinic will be held for Long Beach Unified School District special education students on May 24 at Skylinks Golf Course. The students will be on the driving range at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On May 21, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park will host the Long Beach Child Development Center Family Picnic. Activities will include a moon bounce and face painting. The Department's mobile recreation van will be on hand to provide various games for participants to enjoy. More than 300 families are expected to attend.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,499 emergency calls for service: 136 calls for fires, of which 29 involved structures; and 714 emergency medical calls, of which 500 required paramedics.

Police

Citywide, police officers responded to 881 priority one, 2,008 priority two, and 11,333 priority three calls for service, for a total of 14,172 for the reporting period. Citywide, police officers made 540 arrests, issued 1,705 citations, and conducted 305 field interviews.

The Police Department continues to address ongoing community concerns regarding prostitution and other related criminal activity. On May 13, the Vice Detail conducted a John Program in the 5300 block of Atlantic Avenue. During the operation, undercover female officers, posing as prostitutes, were solicited, and eleven arrests were made.

The Vice Detail conducted a citywide Minor Decoy program designed to identify and cite businesses that serve alcohol to underage individuals. Of the ten locations that were checked citywide, five businesses served alcohol to the "decoy" and were cited.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Library Services

Bay Shore Neighborhood Library had its final *California Stories Uncovered* program on April 23. Local historian Stanley Poe, an expert on the Bay Shore and Naples area of Long Beach, was a featured speaker. Burnett Neighborhood Library presented four programs during April involving different ethnic groups, complete with traditional foods to accompany the stories from each participant about their experiences in coming to California. These programs were all part of the statewide *California Stories Uncovered* campaign of the California Council for the Humanities (CCH) and supported in part by CCH through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Dana Neighborhood Library features new landscaping along Atlantic Avenue: the new California Native Garden is the result of a partnership between the community and the City. The California Heights Neighborhood Association was awarded a Neighborhood Partners' Program grant that provided matching funds for the project. Staff from Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Marine assisted with the removal of the 1950's vegetation and in the installation of the irrigation system. Over three weekends, 56 volunteers from the California Heights Neighborhood Association and Scout Troop 21 donated 200 hours to weed, amend the soil, plant, mulch, and create a rock pathway in the beds in front of Dana Library. Dana Library staff provided oversight and developed a California Native Plant bibliography that will provide library visitors with resources for using native plants. An educational display in the Library about the project and California native gardens is planned for the future.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

On May 12, a special performance at Jordan High School educated students about the dangers of drinking and driving. The *You Lose* performance was comprised of six vignettes that touched on the social, emotional and legal consequences associated with impaired teen driving, performed by Jordan students. This project was coordinated by staff from Neighborhood Services and supported by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On May 14, the West East-Side Community Association (WESCA) hosted their fourth annual Skateboard Safety Fair at Orizaba Park, promoting the safe and proper use of skateboards in the neighborhood. More than 200 neighborhood residents attended the event and 150 children were fitted with a free multi-sport helmet. The event was made possible with the support of the Fourth District Council office, Long Beach Police Department's East Division, Long Beach Fire Fighters Union Local 372, Neighborhood Services Bureau and local businesses on Anaheim Street.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

At Bixby Knolls Park, the ADA fixtures have been installed in the men and women's restrooms; demolition is complete, and forms have been set for concrete access ramps to be poured next week. At Los Cerritos Park, the hi/lo wheelchair accessible drinking fountain has been installed and signage has been put up in the restrooms and parking lot. At Admiral Kidd Park, installation of the wheelchair accessible drinking fountain is in progress.

Construction has begun on the bicycle connection to the Los Angeles River Bikeway (LARIO) Trail at the northern end of Cesar E. Chavez Park. The Class I bicycle trail will connect to future Class III bike routes on 6th and 7th Streets, eventually connecting the Downtown Bike Path with the LARIO Trail.

At Cesar E. Chavez Park, rough grading is complete and layout of the concrete benches and steps for the amphitheater is in progress. Construction of the ornamental iron fence around the amphitheater has begun.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On May 19, more than 50 community members attended a meeting for the proposed West Gabriel River Parkway Project, held at the El Dorado Senior Center.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On Thursday, May 19, more than 150 teens came out for the *Driving Under the Influence* event at Houghton Park, raising awareness on the danger associated with teens drinking and driving through workshops, plays, and informational booths. In addition, teens were treated to free foods, prizes, games, tournaments, and music. This event was in collaboration with Houghton Park and Long Beach Health Department, Center for Families and Youth.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Economic Development Bureau

On May 11, the Business Assistance Committee of the Economic Development Commission approved a loan to California Sandblasting & Coating, Inc. for \$90,000, located at 1700 W. 9th Street. Proceeds will be used for working capital. The company has committed to creating three jobs.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Police

On May 18, a graduation ceremony was held for the 25 students who participated in the 16th Community Police Academy. Students met once a week for 15 weeks and were introduced to the Long Beach Police Department and the criminal justice system. Some of the topics discussed include community relations, traffic enforcement, gang and violent crimes. The next Community Police Academy is scheduled to begin on August 31. Anyone interested in applying should contact Sergeant Gail Dennison at 562.570.5910.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau

On May 14, the Nature Center celebrated Migratory Bird Day with a special event attended by 400 people. Attendees had the opportunity to go on walks with ornithologists from El Dorado Audubon Society who shared information about the migrants that utilize the Nature Center for breeding or as a winter respite.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On May 19, More than 100 people attended the Midnight Basketball League Banquet at the California Recreation Center, featuring rap artist, Warren G. as the guest speaker and a performance by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drill Team.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

About 2,400 people attended the East Village Arts District held their Second Saturday Art Walk on May 14, at Linden Ave. between 1st St. and Broadway.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

On May 17, the Walt Disney Company, with a cast and crew of 15, took still photography for "2005 Fall Drop" at 4201 Chestnut Avenue.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy

During the week of May 8 through May 15, the Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,672 service calls. This total included 845 Gas and Water Utility Turn-Ons, and 626 Turn-Offs. During this period, 945 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 256 meter-maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch, a round-the-clock operation, received 558 emergency phone calls that resulted in 95 emergency orders being sent out.

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OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE (continued)

Long Beach Energy

SERRF completed a major maintenance Turbine Generator outage on May 17. This type of maintenance is scheduled every five years. The Turbine Generator was completely disassembled, cleaned and repaired, and a new nozzle block installed. The scheduled three-week outage was completed one-week ahead of schedule.

Health and Human Services

Technology Coordinator Laura Landry presented a paper on the Long Beach Health Information System at the Public Health Information Network conference. The Long Beach model puts modern technology tools into the workflow of all disciplines and knowledge management tools into the hands of Health Department managers. The Centers for Disease Control is creating a Center for Public Health Informatics, and will be forming three Centers for Excellence in Public Health Informatics. The Long Beach Health Information System is a candidate for this honor. The selections will be made in Fall 2005.

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